



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical and Regional Office Center
215 North Main Street
White River Junction, VT 05009-0001

In Reply Refer To: 405/116A

September 16, 2009

Dr. Alan Green
Dartmouth Medical School
Department of Psychiatry
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
1 Medical Center Drive, 5D
Lebanon, NH 03756-0001

Dear Dr. Green:

The White River Junction VA Medical Center enthusiastically supports the proposal to locate a Dartmouth-run state hospital facility on our grounds. We have been involved with you in reviewing the options for such an endeavor to occur and this proposal is one that we think will be of great benefit to the Vermonters who will use the facility, to the state, DHMC and the veteran community.

As you know, we are unable to provide any direct staffing or medical care for patients in such a collocated hospital at this time. However, with a suitable contractual relationship, we can provide the "hotel services" required by the new hospital.

This proposed hospital will be of significant benefit to Vermont veterans. Of the 23,000 veterans served by the White River Junction VA, 4000 receive direct mental health services in our outpatient clinic. We also have a 10 bed acute, unlocked psychiatric ward. At times, we encounter patients whose acuity is beyond our ability to appropriately manage in such a facility and we must turn to other systems of care, either in Vermont or out of state. Often this means long travel and distance from family and loved ones. Having a secure facility on the same grounds as our acute care hospital will make the transitions to secure care much easier and smooth the process of returning to VA care.

We look forward to working with you to make this opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Pomerantz", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Pomerantz, MD
Chief, Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences
White River Junction VA Medical Center
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Dartmouth Medical School